The Self-Study Steering Committee held its second meeting and invited the participation of the four Working Committee chairs. The goals for the meeting included the identification of significant events in the life of the Seminary since 2003 which have had an impact on the process by which VTS achieves its mission and to open the conversation around the data which each of the Working Committees will need to inform their work.

The meeting, at which all members and committee chairs were present, opened with prayer and some general introductory remarks about the expected outcomes. These outcomes were both essential (the actual written report of the study) and hoped for (an open and comprehensive understanding and evaluation of how VTS goes about living into its mission statement now and what it is necessary to do going forward).

The group then moved into a “time-line exercise” in which all attendees identified events they deemed significant in the life of the Seminary in the years since the completion of the last self-study. These events were reviewed by the group and briefly discussed as to where they might fit into the work of the various committees.

Small group work, with each of the Steering Committee members assigned to one of the Working Committee chairs, was the next step. The groups were charged with considering the agenda for their particular Working Committee and identifying events which have impacted the issues within their purview as well as thinking about data that would need to be gathered in order to do the necessary investigation of how VTS is going about meeting the ATS standards and those which flow from its mission statement.

Reconvening as a “committee of the whole,” the small groups reported on their progress. The committee chairs requested a chance to meet as a group with the self-study staff to review today’s work and their thoughts after reviewing their assigned standards and the self-study goals and expectations. That meeting will occur on the afternoon of May 3.